1. Why does the poet call the bangles as ‘shining loads’? 2

Ans. He refers to the stack of bangles that he carries every day to be sold as ‘shining loads.’ The bangles he carries are bright and colourful as well as in a large quantity. Therefore, he refers to them as ‘shining loads.’

1. Which bangles are compared to the mountain mist? Why? 2

Ans. The blue and silver bangles are compared to the mountain mist. Patches of the blue sky peeping through the mist gives a silvery effect. This is like wearing silver and blue bangles.

1. How are the red bangles described in the poem? 3

Ans. Some brides wear red bangles on the day of their marriage. In the Indian traditional marriage ceremony, the bride and the groom take seven vows around a fire. The bright red bangles of the bride are like the amber coloured flame of the marriage fire.

1. Give examples of visual imagery from the poem. 3

Ans. Shining loads, bright-rainbow tinted, circles of light, lustrous tokens, happy daughters, happy wives, mountain mist, flushes like the buds that dream, new born leaves, sunlit corn, flame of her marriage fire, purple and gold flecked grey, worships the gods by her husband’s side.

1. How did Miss Fairchild react on seeing the two men? 3

Ans. The two men who were handcuffed together sat down on the reverse seat facing the young woman. Initially the woman took a quick disinterested glance at the two men. Then as she registered the face of one of them, a smile spread across her face and a blush covered her cheeks. She held out her hand as she spoke with a sweet but commanding voice.

1. What is meant by ‘My butterfly days are over’? 3

Ans. By this sentence Mr. Easton implied that his freedom had been curbed. Miss Fairchild thought he said that because he would be busy due to his work which involved chasing criminals. In reality Easton was the culprit and had been sentenced to seven years of confinement and so his freedom was over.

1. How is the twist revealed in the story ‘Hearts and Hands’? 4

Ans. When the two hand cuffed men leave and go to the smoking area, the other passengers strike a conversation about them. One of the subtly brings out the truth that Easton is the prisoner and the glum-faced man the marshal. As the marshal’s right hand is never handcuffed it is very clear that Easton is the prisoner and the glum-faced man a marshal. A prisoner’s right hand is handcuffed in order to restrict his movement.